Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0027] with the following amended paragraph:

[0027] As shown in FIG. 11, the cover 20 includes a plurality of internal stiffening ribs 52. The ribs are configured so as to include a first rib cutout 54 at a first end and an opposite second rib cutout 56 at a second end. The rib cutouts 54 and 56 are provided to accommodate the bearings located on the cam member. If additional bearings are utilized, then additional cutouts would be provided in the cover. The ribs 52 prevent lateral movement of the bearings along the cam member. The ribs also provide a stiffening feature to the cover. For example, when forces are applied to the upper platen, resistive and torsional forces are transferred to the cover. The ribs stiffen the cover, which also limits distortion of the cover and further allows uniform pressure to be applied to the upper platen since the cover and the upper platen are fastened together to work as a unitary component of the press. In the embodiment shown, the ribs are generally evenly spaced apart from a first end of the cover to a second end of the cover. In the alternative, any other structure adding strength to the cover would achieve the same objective. An alternative embodiment is shown in FIG. 12, wherein end caps 170 and 172 are added to the cover. The end caps add additional rigidity to the cover and generally encompass the respective first and second supports around their perimeters while still being slidably engaged with the first and second supports. The cover 20 further includes a first guide recess with bearing surfaces 58 and an opposite second guide recess with bearing surfaces 60. The guide recesses allow the cover 20 to be slidably engaged with the first and second supports 16 and 18 primarily at the front and rear surfaces of the supports 16 and 18. This arrangement resists the torsional forces applied to the cover and upper platen during the operation of the press. The engagement between the cover 20 and the first and second supports 16 and 18 as well as the ribs in the cover maintain the upper platen 22 parallel to the lower platen 14 throughout the cutting stroke. The cover 20 further includes fastener apertures 62a-e for fastening the cover 20 to the upper platen 22 so that the cover and the upper platen move as a unitary component.